

The Distinctiveness of Discipleship

May 21st & 22nd, 2016

Matthew 28:19-20

The mission of the church is to make disciples.

- ❖ A disciple is a learner – one who receives instruction from another.
- ❖ God alone draws people to Himself (*John 6:44*), causes them to be born-again (*1 Peter 1:3*), and gives them a desire to know and follow His Word (*Ezekiel 36:26-27*).
- ❖ Christians are then responsible to disciple, instruct and educate the believers to understand the truth about all of life through foundation of the Word of God!

Educate: “To bring up, as a child; to instruct; to inform and enlighten the understanding; to instill into the mind principles of arts, science, morals, religion and behavior. To *educate* children well is one of the most important duties of parents and guardians.”¹

Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

Proverbs 6:20 “My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.”

Jesus said “... *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. ...*” *Matthew 28:20*

- ❖ WPCC takes the call of God to disciple and educate very seriously!
 - ♦ We teach the Word of God and grow in our knowledge of Him in the weekend Services, weekly Bible studies, Life Groups, youth meetings, counseling, and our Christian school!
Winter Park Christian School is a discipleship center!
Vision and Goals:
 - ✓ Teach all subjects in the curriculum as parts of an integrated whole with the infallible Scriptures at the center (*2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5*)
 - ✓ Provide a clear model of the Biblical Christian Life through our staff (*Matthew 22:37-40*)
 - ✓ Encourage every student to begin or continue in a personal relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
 - ♦ We as Christians, in love and compassion, understand that the public education centers of the world will never be able to create teaching curriculum that honors God and His marvelous creation!
1 Corinthians 2:14 “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”
John 8:12 “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”
 - ♦ We as Christians know that all subjects were created by God and display His knowledge and wisdom!

The contrast between Christian Education and Secular Humanistic Education

- ❖ Theology: Is there a God and what is He like?

Christian Education “Christian theology affirms the existence of an intelligent, powerful, loving and just God. From the Christian perspective, ‘In the beginning God’ is the foundation for all meaning...the Christian sees purpose and design throughout the universe.”²

Revelation 1:8 “‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’”

Proverbs 16:4 “The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.”

Secular Humanistic Education “Humanistic theology, start to finish, is based on the denial of God and the supernatural...Man is the supreme authority.”²

❖ Philosophy: What is real and what is true?

Christian Education “As Christians we believe in a Supernatural God independent of His creation, who continues to work in miraculous and supernatural ways! This is reality!”²

♦ We believe in...

...Prayer *Matthew 7:7-8*

...Spiritual Gifts *1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

...Spiritual Warfare *Ephesians 6:10-18*

Secular Humanistic Education “Humanism is naturalistic and rejects the supernaturalistic stance with its postulated [to assume without proof] Creator-God and cosmic ruler.”³

♦ How can we know about reality? “Naturalism answers that everything in the physical world...is knowable and science is the proper means of knowing it.”⁴

❖ Science and Biology: What is the Origin of Life?

Christian Education “The Christian believes that Scripture is a historical account of origins. Christianity trusts the authority of Genesis.”²

Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”

Psalms 19:1-3 “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.”

Secular Humanistic Education “Man is a result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind. He was not planned. He is a state of matter...”⁵

♦ An unborn baby is only fetal matter – abortion is acceptable. *Psalms 139:13-18*

♦ God did not create marriage between a man and a woman – same sex marriage is right. *Matthew 19:4-6*

♦ God did not make them male and female – transgenderism is natural. *Genesis 1:27-28*

❖ Ethics: What is Right?

Christian Education “Biblical Christianity’s ethics are absolute and unchanging because God is a Holy [Unchanging] and Righteous God.”²

Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

Secular Humanistic Education “There are always new problems to face, hence there is a continued need to revise principles and values in light of altered social conditions.”⁶

“Ethics is autonomous and situational, needing no theological or ideological sanction.”⁷

“If you are going to walk with Jesus Christ, you are going to be opposed. ... In our days, to be a true Christian is really to become a scandal.” - George Whitefield, 1714-1770

John 8:31-32

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”

Endnotes:

- ¹ Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989. Print.
 - ² Noebel, David A. *Understanding The Times*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1991. Print.
 - ³ Roy Wood Sellars. "The Humanist Outlook," in *The Humanist Alternative*, ed. Paul Kurtz. Buffalo: Prometheus, 1973. Print.
 - ⁴ Noebel, David A. *The Battle for Truth*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2001. Print.
 - ⁵ Simpson, George Gaylord. *The Meaning of Evolution*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971. Print.
 - ⁶ Kurtz, Paul. "Does Humanism Have an Ethic of Responsibility." *Humanist Ethics: Dialogue on Basics*. Ed. Morris Storer. Buffalo, NY: Prometheus Books, 1980. Print.
 - ⁷ Kurtz, Paul, ed., *Humanist Manifestoes I & II*. Buffalo, NY: Prometheus Books, 1980. Print.
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